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ANNUAL REPORT

ON

INDENTURED INDIAN IMMIGRANTS

IN

THE COLONY OF GRENADA

FOR

1891.

SAINT GEORGE:
PRINTED AT THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE,

1892.

22

IMMIGRATION OFFICE, GRENADA,
13th May, 1892.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the following Report on the Immigration Department for the year 1891.

2. No East Indian Immigrants arrived during the year, nor were any applied for, those who came to Grenada in the *Poonah* in the year 1885 are working out their term of Industrial Service, which will expire in January 1895.

3. The expenditure of the Department was not increased and, therefore, the balance at the credit of the Immigration Fund on 1st January 1891 was not much reduced during the year. The collection of export duties was again suspended by "The Export Duties Suspending Ordinance 1891." A copy of the Balance Sheet of the Immigration Fund at 31st December is annexed.

4. Ten Passports were issued during the year.

5. The health of the Coolies was good, there were no epidemics, the death rate of the whole Colony was but 21.91 per thousand.

6. There were very few offences against the law chargeable to East Indians although one murder was committed by a time expired Immigrant, his victim was a Creole, the culprit was tried, convicted and executed. I annex a statement showing the convictions of East Indians in 1891, from which it appears that only 4 offences were committed by them, equal to .34 per cent on the total number of convictions which were 1154 for the whole population.

7. The School which was established by the Minister in charge of the Presbyterian Church in this Island, at Samaritan Estate, in the year 1885, has steadily prospered, and it was placed on the list of Schools assisted by the Government in October 1890, and, at the end of last year, it had an average attendance of 37 children of East Indian parents. Besides these there were about 70 coolie children attending the other Presbyterian Schools at 31 December, and there were also many others gaining instruction in the Government and Assisted Schools.

8. The condition of the Immigrants continued to be prosperous, the cost of living was not any higher than in the previous year and provisions were plentiful and cheap, work was easily obtainable, the usual wages per day earned by labourers was for :—

Men	1/-
Women	9d.
Children	3d to 6d.

9. In his report on the Census taken on 5th April 1891, the Compiler Mr. C. H. Johnson, makes the following remarks, which I re-produce as they bear valuable testimony to the progress made by East Indian Immigrants in Grenada :—

"The total number of Coolies enumerated was 2,118 as compared with 1,572 in " the 1881 Census or an increase of 546 which is equivalent to an increase of 35 " per cent. There were 1,222 male Coolies and 896 females or 138 males to every " 100 females."

"The number of persons enumerated as Indian Coolies in the 1881 Census was " 1,052. In the 1891 Census this was reduced to 1,013 or a decrease of 39. This " very small decrease shews that there has been a very considerable immigration of " Coolies from other Islands, for taking the death rate as 24 per 1000 and making a " rough calculation and allowing for known emigration and immigration the number " of Indian Coolies enumerated in 1881 that might be presumed to be alive in 1891 " should be about 848, and as there are 165 above that number we may safely say " that close upon 160 Coolies have come to us from other islands instead of returning " to India."

"This is borne out by the number of Coolie children enumerated as being born "in other West Indian Islands, especially St. Vincent, which evidently shews that "most of the Coolie Immigration has been from that Island. This is a very obvious "sign that the Coolie is contented with making Grenada his home and has very "little desire of leaving it."

"The number of Coolies enumerated as being born in this island was 951 as "compared with 520 enumerated in the 1881 Census, or an increase of 430. There "is another increase this decade of which there were no signs in 1881, this is the "addition of 154 Coolies born in other islands of whom by far the greater proportion "come from St. Vincent, many with their Indian parents, and others doubtless on their "own account."

"It is interesting to notice how the Coolies have migrated from parish to parish. "There has been a very considerable immigration into St. David's, St. Mark's and St. "John's parishes and an emigration from St. Patrick's, from the Town of St. George "and to a slight extent from St. Andrew's. There were no Coolies in Carriacou."

"In 1881 out of every 1,000 persons enumerated 37 were Coolies. This Census "there were 40 out of the same number; but in no parish is there such a high ratio "as there was in St. Andrew's in the 1881 Census where they numbered 97 to the "1,000. The highest ratio this Census is found in St. Mark's where they number 75 "to the 1,000.

"The Coolies for the most part are engaged in agricultural operations, many of "them being proprietors of small holdings of land and some of tolerably large ones. "Some of them are engaged in business."

"In religious matters the Coolie does not seem at all Conservative. There were "509 enumerated as Hindoos, and 72 as Mohammedans, the rest have been converted "to Christianity and it is not at all uncommon for the heads of a family to be Hindoos "and their children to be Christians. Very rarely were any of the children other "than Christians. Most of the Christian Coolies follow the Anglican persuasion there "being 1151 of them Anglicans, or more than one half of all the Coolies in the island. "The Roman Catholics numbered 185 and the Presbyterians 165. The Presbyterian "Coolies cluster in the parishes of St. Mark, St. John, and St. Patrick."

"The results of this Census very clearly indicate that we have in our midst a "people who are increasing in number, and whose presence is likely to be of the greatest service to the Colony in future years."

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant.

C. H. COLLYMORE,

Acting Protector of Immigrants

THE HON.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY,

&c., &c., &c.

Dr. *Balance Sheet of the Immigration Fund of Grenada at 31st December 1891.* Cr.

Date		£	s.	d.	Date		£	s.	d.
1891.					1891.				
Decr. 31	Treasury Deposit Account	£2,004	15	11	Decr. 31	Arrears of Revenue Account	£ 42	18	7
	Emigration Agent, Calcutta	34	8	5		Surplus and Deficit Account	3,470	3	7
	Loan to St. George's Parochial Board	1,430	19	3					
	Interest on Loan to St. George's Parochial Board (Arrears Account)	42	18	7					
		£3,513	2	2			£3,513	2	2

List of Convictions of East Indian Immigrants during the year 1891.

Offence.	Sentence.
Housebreaking	3 years imprisonment with hard labour
Stealing Cocoa	5 years do. do. do. do.
Murder	Death.
Stealing a hat	1 month's imprisonment with hard labour.